

1973-2023 Wostawea Time Capsule Story

“Ski Swap: A Mactaquac Loppet Story”

Story shared by John Ball

Before Killarney, when lessons were still at Odell Park, Wostawea loppets took place at Mactaquac, and our family's first ones were there. In what I think was our second loppet, in 2009, my wife Lisa skied 11K with Peter, then 9 years old, and I did the 15K with his older brother Jack. In those days, 15K was the longest either Jack or I had ever skied, and it felt like embarking on an expedition. The course was one huge loop around the park, on and off the golf course and ending up in the woods with some switchback hills that were breathtaking in more ways than one. It took us nearly two hours. Meanwhile, Peter and Lisa, unbeknownst to us, were struggling mightily on their course: Peter's fishscale skis, which his clueless Dad had never waxed, just didn't want to move. It felt like someone had pulled an invisible parking brake, and he got quickly frustrated and wanted to bail. Along came a good Samaritan in the form of Jane Hadley, who has played that role for many Wostaweans over the years. After chatting to Lisa and hearing Peter's tale of woe, she amazed them both by saying, "would you like to use my skis, Peter?" Well, yes, please! Lisa protested; Jane insisted; and so a free trade agreement was reached. Jane's skis were pretty long for Peter, but they glided like a dream, and as he now recalls, "Jane's skis saved the day." Jane gamely carried on wearing his pair, generously slowing down her own loppet to make sure another skier had the best experience possible. To anyone who knows Jane, such kindness will come as no surprise!